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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/532,396	04/22/2005	Toru Sasaki	7217/71165	1596
23432	7590	10/24/2006	EXAMINER	
COOPER & DUNHAM, LLP 1185 AVENUE OF THE AMERICAS NEW YORK, NY 10036			LEE, PING	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2615	

DATE MAILED: 10/24/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/532,396

Applicant(s)

SASAKI, TORU

Examiner

Ping Lee

Art Unit

2615

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 February 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Regarding claim 11, the terms "the projection screens" as specified in the last two lines of the claim lacks clear antecedent basis.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-7 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 3-106298 A.

Regarding claims 1, 2 and 11, JP 3-106298 A discloses an array speaker apparatus with a projection screen, comprising:

a plurality of speaker units (12a in Fig. 1b);

a plurality of cabinets (as shown in Fig. 1b) each having an opening portion and each adapted for accommodating each of the plurality of speaker units so that vibration plates of the plurality of speaker units are located at an

internal side relative to the opening portions of the plurality of cabinets (Fig. 1b shows that the diaphragm is located inside the cabinet); and

a projection screen (14) serving as a sound transmission screen for displaying a projected image,

wherein the plurality of cabinets are arranged so that the opening portions thereof are flush (directly abutting or immediately adjacent as shown in Fig. 1b) with each other, and

the projection screen is attached in a state substantially in contact with the opening portions (as shown in Fig. 1b, the screen 14 is in a state substantially in contact with the opening portions).

Regarding claims 3-6, the claimed buffer materials read on the air between the screen (14) and the opening portion of the cabinets.

Regarding claim 7, Figs. 1b and 2 show the frame (11).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 3-106298 A in view of JP 5-199576 A.

Regarding claim 8, JP 3-106298 A fails to show power amplifiers. However, one skilled in the art would have recognized that the speakers require power amplifiers to

generate the drive signal. JP 3-106298 A discloses speaker layout without providing any circuitry. One skilled in the art would have expected that any well known speaker driving circuit could be used without generating any unexpected result. JP 5-199576 A teaches such a driving circuit with a power amplifier. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify JP 3-106298 A by utilizing the amplifier as taught in JP 5-199576 A in order to drive the speaker properly.


7. Claims 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 3-106298 A in view of JP 5-244550 A.

Regarding claims 8-10, JP 3-106298 A fails to show a directivity formation circuit. JP 3-106298 A discloses speaker layout without providing any circuitry. One skilled in the art would have expected that any well known speaker driving circuit could be used without generating any unexpected result. JP 5-244550 A teaches such a driving circuit with power amplifiers and filter circuits. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify JP 3-106298 A by utilizing the driving circuit as taught in JP 5-244550 A in order to drive the speaker properly.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ping Lee whose telephone number is 571-272-7522. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vivian C. Chin can be reached on 571-272-7848. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Ping Lee
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2615

pwl